



EdmundRice
FOUNDATION
AUSTRALIA

REACHING OUT

PRESENCE | COMPASSION | LIBERATION

www.erf.org.au



Dear Supporters,

The Foundation has been searching for what is central to our operation. We arrived at the term *metanoia* (Greek: change of heart). This term encapsulates those moments in life when we have a change of heart. It is our hope that all the communities and projects that are partnered by the Foundation feel a sense of liberation and a sense of solidarity with the Australian public, but just as important is that every supporter

of the Foundation feels a 'change of heart' by being in solidarity with some of the world's most poor. This is a core element of our Foundation and I believe should be one of the main motivations for our work.

Edmund Rice was a businessman who had a number of *metanoia* moments in his life that acted as catalysts to help form a more just world. If the Foundation is to be true to

our Founder, we must continue to offer each of you the opportunity to feel connected to a cause that adds depth to your lives. Later this year we will offer you a *metanoia* experience from your own homes and offices.

Once again thank you for your support.

Anthony Ryan
Chief Executive Officer



Typhoon Leyte



Feeding Typhoon victims



Kabankalan Philippines Disaster

PROJECT UPDATES: OCEANIA

Edmund Rice Services

Maasin, Philippines

Outreach to typhoon affected people in the Tacloban area continues to be given major emphasis in the work of Edmund Rice Services. Following a planning trip, a house was contracted for rental for one year, so that an ERS Social Worker and four interns had residence from which to conduct a survey of the needs. Courtesy calls were made to local government health and education officials. A nurse was selected to be resident in Tacloban, and a Social Worker is accompanied by two Maasin ERS nurses in delivering the mobile service. The survey concentrated on the needs of children who lost both parents in the typhoon, and found that 17 children in this situation were also left in the situation of great poverty. Efforts continue to provide for these children. The Ear Mobile Team moved to Tacloban and provided services, not only screening for ear problems but also teaching and training parents and school teachers on ear/hearing health and treatment and identifying children and adults who need immediate medical and surgical intervention due to the effects of the typhoon. The ERS team visited 6 government schools and screened 1,459 children and 233 adults and gave on-the-spot treatment to 469 children. In the second week, 306 children identified were given follow-up treatment. In association with the clinics, 229 adults participated in awareness training in practical aspects of primary ear health care.

Edmund Rice Services

Kabankalan, Philippines

Progress in construction of the administration and classroom centre has moved apace. By mid-year the several programs offered by Edmund Rice Services will have adequate facilities after a long wait. The Back to School Program for those fallen by the way has seen 280 children and youth accessing this program. The work of our teacher in regularly visiting the classes and making follow-up visits to families has paid off with attendances steady until graduation. The Nutrition Program continues with on average 200 children being provided with nutritious lunches in a number of schools. Alternative Learning System saw 43 learners presented for the Annual National examination with a good number achieving success.

The Community Engagement projects at the original two communities are progressing well. Both have reduced their loans by 50%. Seminars in Leadership Training for the leaders of the two communities have been presented regularly. Engagement has been extended to two further communities. Both completed attendance at the required seminars held weekly and projects were proposed and approved. Loans were advanced to each. Assistance and advice on book-keeping has been provided for the treasurers of each community. The Anawim Foundation for the Deaf is progressing well. The first 17 deaf students to attend high school in this diocese have now completed Grade 8. Already plans are being developed to consider senior High School and even College education possibilities at a later date.

Callan Services

Papua New Guinea

Mr Sine Kape from Simbu is totally blind as a result of an injury. He is in his early forties, married, and has two young daughters. At the end of 2011 Sine was given start-up capital for his Livelihood project after completing Livelihood training. Sine started his project with goods worth K320. He sold high demand goods such as kerosene, mobile phone credit cards, cooking oil and noodles. They were sold quickly and he ordered again. This went on for a while with good profit. Sine then rented a building and retailed with some more goods. Unfortunately the store was broken into and Sine lost goods and money. He then rented another store in the centre of a market place and turned his retail store into a mini wholesale, by selling only a few bulk goods such as bags of flour, noodles, salt and cooking oil. His customers came far to buy these basic goods. They did not want to go to the provincial capital because the fares were too high. Sine is currently renovating his house. They are having good meals every day and their living standard is improving. He has saved more than K15000. His success also depended on his wife working very hard and having the support of the Livelihood coordinator, who has held a meeting with Sine's family members for their support to expand the project in the near future.





Partners in construction in East Timor

Comunidade Edmund Rice *East Timor*

Thanks to all who donated to the Terrace Timor Network (TTN) fundraiser, which raised money for several construction projects in support of our partners in Timor Leste. One project has taken a big leap forward. Sixteen very generous visitors headed for Railaco Kraic where they helped finish the work started by Peter Coe and his helpers on the new accommodation building.

Some key features about this project demonstrate how TTN and Comunidade Edmund Rice (CER) are working together in partnership with the people of Timor:

- The building location, design, and construction type were all developed in consultation with the community through CER
- Engineering and architecture support was provided by TTN
- All materials and labour for this project were sourced locally in Timor, maximizing the positive economic benefit to the community
- 8 TTN and 9 Timorese builders worked together for 6 days, laying blocks, framing a roof, fitting doors, welding, and even plumbing a shower and toilet.
- There was significant technology and skills transfer, especially around safety and the effective use of power tools, which will be highly useful now that power is coming to the villages.
- Daily lunch and afternoon tea was produced by and purchased from local village women, further extending the engagement and community benefits
- A celebration Festa with shrieks of joy from our Timorese and TTN builders was held at the conclusion to reinforce the community partnership.



Scouts at Br Beausang

PROJECT UPDATES: AFRICA



Br Silveio & Womens Choir Eldoret

Education for Life *Eldoret, Kenya*

Among the development activities we have undertaken in the first quarter, we can rate the nutritional support as the most successful. Our targets are the HIV infected and affected vulnerable people living in the slum areas of Eldoret town. The majority have no steady income since they have no jobs and depend on low income part time jobs such as weeding, and washing clothes to meet the needs of their families. Sometimes they cannot find any jobs and may go hungry, threatening their health and that of their children.

This is more complex for those on antiretroviral drugs, which should be taken when the body is strong. In addition, the children going to school hungry end up performing poorly despite the fees we pay.

The food distributed once per week has motivated the clients to take medication and hence become healthy in order to take responsibility for their families. The Milk programme and porridge flour for the young babies, both infected and affected, has helped the malnourished children to grow healthy. Each Monday we provide beans and porridge flour to close to 300 families with over 500 vulnerable children; we provided milk supplements to 23 malnourished and HIV/AIDS positive children. We empower our clients economically by enabling them to become involved in income generating activities such as tailoring, bead work, and small scale businesses. This has enabled the clients to earn a minimal income for subsistence needs.



Nutrition support for the children STAR

Comboni Hospital Nzara, South Sudan

A visiting doctor from Italy who is a dermatologist with expertise in treatment of African diseases including leprosy and HIV /Aids provided medical care to the 50 inpatient children reviewed most days at Nzara and also to the sickest adults and made field visits to the leprosy patients in isolated communities in the bush.

This made a major contribution to the care of the community and provided support to assist Sr Dr Sara Antonini and the four clinical officers who manage emergency care, HIV /Aids outpatient clinic, general medical clinic, and the inpatient TB patients. Two of the local nursing staff were chosen and volunteered to undergo further training at Wau. These young men will spend three years training to improve their expertise and assist in raising the nursing standards at Nzara hospital. Some of the other nursing staff are undergoing additional training supported by the Foundation. The solar panels installed through the donations of the Edmund Rice Foundation are being utilised to provide electricity for refrigeration and facilities for the laboratory to enable testing and blood transfusions. Planning is underway to provide additional solar energy to the hospital in January next year.

A Second high quality ultrasound machine has been delivered and will improve the imaging capabilities of the hospital. The plan is to obtain a digital x-ray machine to allow x-rays of seriously ill patients often requiring chest x-ray to exclude the presence of tuberculosis and pneumonia.

STAR Support Group Yambio, South Sudan

Despite the resurgence of conflict in South Sudan, the STAR Support Centre carries on its work with determination. This is required as the "clients" are HIV/AIDS sufferers and often require motivating. In an area that suffered brutal civil war for 30 years and because of long years of UN involvement, a certain sense of dependency had become part of their attitude. This is true for most people there, not just STAR clients.

An example of an issue that has been successfully addressed is that of the farm. Land was bought some years ago for the clients to farm crops to supplement the food supply to the members, especially those in greatest need. Unfortunately, it had been set

up in such a way that the clients requested funds to feed them while they were working on the farm.

As a result, the rate of work decreased, a sign of the peoples' dependency. This has been changed and no such dependency now occurs. The clients go to the farm two or three times a week and the production is higher. A sizeable plantation of pineapples has been planted which should sell for some profit. A tailoring project is being planned, which will give groups of clients a set of skills that will enable them to be more independent. A number of local schools are keen to partner with the STAR clients, once they are trained, to produce school uniforms.

Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre Embulbul, Kenya

This year we have used funds from the Edmund Rice Foundation for a number of projects. To commence the borehole project, a hydrogeological survey was carried out in mid-February. Following the report, applications have been lodged with the local council and the environment authority for the necessary permits. It is planned for work to commence in mid-May. The home visitation program was conducted by the Pastoral Care team to assess new family situations, needs and sponsorship. The home visits commenced in mid-January and will continue into Term 2. We have been enabled to offer a number of special scholarships based on academic results and family needs. A teaching and learning program enabled three key staff

to organise a bench marking exercise with a selected secondary school for late May. This exercise will focus on all aspects of schooling – academic program, school routines, student leadership, timetabling, discipline, and other aspects important to offering a good education. We were delighted to have been selected as a finalist in the Transform Kenya awards. Over 24,000 individuals and organisations were nominated for transforming the country and touching the lives of citizens. Extensive research and interviewing took place to confirm the work of those nominated. It was announced at Easter that Br Beausang was one of three education finalists for impacting on the lives of hundreds of families through education and sponsorship.



Raphael Chairperson of Star



Primary Acrobats at Br Beausang



Scholars at ER Sinon



Building desks ER Sinon



Grinding maize to feed students

Ruben Centre *Nairobi, Kenya*

The school opened for Term 2 and the 2,150 students poured into their new classrooms for the first time. The 24 new classrooms have brought a great sense of pride and empowerment to both students and teachers.

Scholastica Opiyo, Head Teacher of eight years and staff member of 14 years, said, "This is a dream come true for me. I came here not wanting to stay here as the state of the school was appalling and yet suddenly a first class school is here." Recently 160 pupils went for a tour at Panari Hotel, a five star hotel in Nairobi, courtesy of the hotel's Community Support Program dubbed feed the child program. The aim is to give the children from the slum hope and a different life experience.

During this tour the children were trained on recycling and how to make fashionable items from recycled materials. They were also given waste material that they will use to create garments and accessories for a fashion show that will be held sometime in May.

The event is dubbed Fashion through Recycling. The Panari Hotel also brought breakfast for all the 2,200 children in the primary school. Each child received a glass of juice, a pack of biscuits, a queen cake, and an orange. They also awarded the best group for a project on sack gardening, which the children learned during another visit in the hotel last year. .

Mary Rice Centre *Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya*

When we resumed classes in April this year we had 20 new parents wanting to enrol their children who had a range of disabilities. However, due to limited space we could enrol only six children, making the total number of children at the centre 25, which is the maximum we can accommodate.

This has been a recurring challenge. We have resolved that at the beginning of next term, when we will start an outreach program that will identify the children in need of our service and then reach out to them on a daily basis since we have employed a field officer who has social work skills. We are very grateful for our visitors from Parade College, Edmund Rice Camps in Victoria and West Australia.

It was the best start that we could ever have to begin a year, as visitors are a blessing. We thank our sponsors for travelling the road with us without tiring. Most recently, our floor and drainage system has been renewed. Previously the water would flow over the floor when it rained.

This was a big challenge to the children since at those times they could not use the floor to play. It was also a challenge to the staff since we had to forgo our duties so as to clean up the water that had entered the classroom. But now that the new floor is in place the children are very happy.

Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School *Arusha, Tanzania*

From the galvanized iron sheds that were our classrooms when the Christian Brothers came to Tanzania years ago, we have developed a very fine and successful school. The enrolment has grown to 1,400 boys and girls, many of whom come long distances to school. The government schools have also improved, but cannot offer places to all children. Our facilities have gradually developed with the assistance offered. From needing constant support from the Edmund Rice Foundation, we can now operate sustainably on the school fees from most students. But to remain true to the local poor children, we have had to do more. We have been managing the Student Support Program over many years to identify those most in need and to support them in school fees. This challenge remains. It is about finding ways of supporting as many as possible while being able to recognize true need since almost every student would like financial support. An additional challenge is met when trying to deal with sudden changes in the circumstances of a student. The death of the family breadwinner will often mean that the payment of fees is no longer possible. Hence the appeal for assistance is often unplanned. And so we continue to look to Australia through the Edmund Rice Foundation for support for these children. Many things are improving here in Tanzania, although it remains one of the poorer nations of Africa.

ST EDWARD'S IN LEYTE

While others were going to Schoolies in Queensland, four Year 12 boys from St Edward's College Gosford chose to spend their time working with the Christian Brothers in Leyte. Lachlan Walters, Tiger Fitt, Bryson Hawkins and Anthony Jones left Australia with College Headmaster, Dr Michael Slattery, and his wife Alison to work in the schools and other ministries conducted by the Christian Brothers in the southern region of the Philippines.

During 2013 the boys had asked if they could do something like this at the end of their Higher School Certificate. Given the terrible devastation by Typhoon Haiyan to northern Leyte and Tacloban, the group was even more determined to go and offer any help to the local people. The boys packed 60kg bags of rice and foodstuffs with the Christian Brothers staff and parishioners and then delivered it on army trucks to ravaged

areas of northern Leyte. Dr Slattery said "the devastation to the city of Tacloban is indescribable and the young men showed great maturity and leadership in handling the sights, sounds, and smells of a city hit by 300kph winds and tidal surges of 15 metres. These boys are good products of their school and their families. I am proud of them." In Maasin, under the leadership of Br Paul Coster, formerly teaching at St Edward's, a team of four Brothers and Filipino staff are involved in the provision of education and disability services.

The Brothers successfully conduct work in primary and secondary schools, health clinics, and provide employment programs for youth and adults. This year a group of Year 12 students has chosen to go on an immersion to the Edmund Rice ministries in Nairobi instead of Schoolies.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2014/15

For booking details visit www.erf.org.au/events

August 17

*Nzara Sunday Luncheon
– Abruzzo Club, Lygon St, Melbourne*

August 23

*Zimele Dinner
– St Kevin's College, Toorak, Melbourne*

September 12 TBC

*Rainbow Ladies Luncheon
– Melbourne*

October 18

Terrace Timor Network Annual Fundraiser

October 21

*Friends of Africa Golf Day,
– Sandhurst Golf Club, Melbourne*

October 26

*Zimele Walkathon
– Yarra Bend Park, Melbourne*

October 28

*The 500 Supporters' Group
Spring Racing Luncheon
– MCG*

December TBA

*GOA Edmund Rice Race Day
– Doomben Racecourse, Brisbane*

March 14 2015

*Edmund Rice Dinner Melbourne
– Melrose Convention Centre*

May 23 2015

*Edmund Rice Dinner Brisbane
– Royal International Convention
Centre (Ekka)*

May 29 2015

*Edmund Rice Dinner Sydney
– Doltone House, Darling Island Wharf*

THE FOUNDATION GROWS

Commencing in Melbourne with one person and a small committee to support local endeavours, there soon emerged a structured organisation in 1987 to support the African schools that the Brothers were working in. First Board Chair was John Ralph AC who later became a Trustee and served for 25 years.

The Foundation began on a charity model but over the years evolved into an international development agency that practised the development model. Rather than just give to the poor and disadvantaged and so create dependency, the processes of assisting local communities become self-supporting were established. Giving a leg up rather than a hand out is how some would put it.

A clear example of this is the Edmund Rice Sinon School in Tanzania as described in another article. Very substantial funds were provided over many years to assist developing this school, but little is required now. The development model sees skilled people from the developed world share their skills with the locals, who can then perform the tasks themselves. This has been extensively practiced at the Ruben Centre in Nairobi and the Comboni Hospital in South Sudan.

The recent TTN building project in East Timor exemplifies the same. If the work of development is to be sustainable, then the local communities must be involved at every stage and progressively assume control. When that has happened, the expertise and funds from the agency can be directed to another area of great need.

Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia) has also evolved in its legal structure and scope. From the original Trust it is now a Company Limited by Guarantee with all the required financial reporting and control mechanisms. From being largely located in one area, it has expanded to all parts of Australia with very active Chapters in Queensland, NSW and Victoria, and new Chapters beginning in SA and WA. Supporters have grown in number and are Australia-wide. Our activity is now in 4 countries of Africa and 3 in Oceania, as well as at home.

After rigorous accreditation procedures, the Foundation was recently accepted for membership of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). This is a significant mark of recognition of the work that has been carried out over many years and of the systems and processes that have been developed to ensure that the best is done for the poorest people with the generosity of Australian supporters.

Bill Wilding cfc